

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ergonomic duty belt having an inside, an outside, a top, a bottom, a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis for carrying accessories, comprising:

a pliable outer covering, said pliable outer covering enclosing a semi rigid frame member;

[[a]] said semi-rigid frame member parallel to the longitudinal axis of said duty belt and inside said pliable outer covering. said semi- rigid frame member forming a cushion to increase the comfort of user; and

an accessory retainment system attached to said outside of said ergonomic duty belt, said accessory retainment system configured for attaching accessories to said ergonomic duty belt;

said ergonomic duty belt configured to form a semi-conically shaped section ring when placed about the waist of a user, and when worn by a user, said ergonomic duty belt having a top edge and a bottom edge, said semi-conically shaped section top edge having a smaller circumference than the bottom edge, said ergonomic duty belt configured to allow said user to hold a variety of accessories in a desired position and orientation with increased comfort.

2. (Original) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 1 further comprising a detachable inner belt that goes through belt loops on a user's pants, and attaches to said ergonomic duty belt.

3. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 2 further comprising an outer belt that attaches to said ergonomic duty belt.

4. (Original) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 1 wherein said ergonomic duty belt comprises multiple foam layers with foams of different densities.

5. (Currently Amended) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 1 wherein said frame member is configured to match the contours of the portion of the user's body which the frame member engages, by having a narrower width over [[a]] said user's hips and having a wider width at the small of the back and waist.

6. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 2 wherein said accessory retaining system comprises a strip of attachment material and at least one loop, said attachment material and said loop configured to connect and hold an outer belt against said ergonomic duty belt, said outer belt configured to hold a plurality of attachment devices thereupon.

7. (Currently Amended) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 6 wherein said accessory retaining system comprises a plurality of vertically-oriented plates oriented parallel with said ergonomic duty belt transverse axis disposed along an outer surface of said outer belt, said attachment retaining system further comprising compatibly configured attachment devices configured to connect with said vertically-oriented plates.

8. (Currently Amended) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 1 wherein said accessory retaining system comprises a plurality of vertically-oriented plates oriented parallel with said ergonomic duty belt transverse axis disposed along an outer surface of said ergonomic duty belt, said attachment retaining system further comprising compatibly configured attachment devices configured to connect with said vertically-oriented plates.

9. (Currently Amended) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 2 wherein said accessory retaining system comprises a track extending ~~in a generally horizontal direction parallel with said ergonomic duty belt longitudinal axis~~ along a portion of said ergonomic duty belt, said track configured to receive a correspondingly configured tenon therein, at least one of said tenons attached to a tool accessory.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The ergonomic duty belt of claim 1 further comprising [[an]] said inner surface configured to allow varied removable attachment of a variety of padded devices therefrom.

12. (Currently Amended) A connection system for allowing interchangeable connection of a variety of accessories to [[a]] an ergonomic duty belt, said ergonomic duty belt having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, said system comprising:

a plurality of vertically disposed plates oriented parallel with said ergonomic duty belt transverse axis connected to [[a]] an ergonomic duty belt, said plates defining spaces there between, said plates and said spaces configured to receive and hold a compatibly configured attachment device upon said ergonomic duty belt, said plates having a generally flat top and a beveled side edge, connected to the belt by a rail section with a square cross-section.

13. (Currently Amended) The connection system of claim 12 wherein said vertically oriented plates are configured receive and hold a tenon within a space defined by said plates, said tenon

further comprising a tab configured to interact with said plates so as to allow an accessory device having a tenon to be placed in a desired position and orientation upon said ergonomic duty belt.

14. (Currently Amended) The connection system of claim 12 further comprising a slotted attachment device, said slotted attachment device having a body, said body defining a slot, said slot configured to receive at least a portion of one of said vertically-oriented plates therein, whereby an accessory that is connected to a slotted attachment device can be removably attached and removed from said ergonomic duty belt.

15. (Currently Amended) The connection system of claim 14 wherein said vertically disposed plates define grooves therein and wherein said each of said slotted attachment devices further comprise a tab, said tab configured to be inserted within at least one of said grooves and to hold said slotted attachment device upon said vertically-oriented plates.

16. (Currently Amended) The connection system of claim 15 wherein said connection system further comprises a screw, said screw configured to engage and hold said slotted attachment device upon said vertically-oriented plate.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The connection system of claim 12 wherein quantities of said vertical plates are connected in sections to a base plate, and said base plate is connected to [[a]] an ergonomic duty belt.

20. (Currently Amended) An ergonomic duty belt system comprising:
an inner belt configured to pass through the belt loops on a user's pants;
an ergonomic duty belt having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, said ergonomic duty belt further comprised of; a semi-rigid frame member, said semi-rigid frame member configured to match the contours of the portion of the user's body which the frame member engages; a plurality of foam layers comprised of foams of different densities covering said semi-rigid frame member, and a pliable outer covering covering said semi-rigid frame member and said foam; said ergonomic duty belt configured to form a semi-conically shaped section ring when placed about the waist of [[a]] said user, said semi-conically shaped section ring having a broader portion near its base and a narrower portion near its top, said ergonomic duty belt configured to allow said user to hold a variety of accessories in a desired position and orientation with increased comfort; and
an accessory attachment device connected to said ergonomic belt said accessory attachment device comprised of a plurality of vertically-oriented plates oriented parallel with said ergonomic duty belt transverse axis disposed along an outer surface of said ergonomic belt, said attachment retaining device further comprising compatibly configured attachment devices configured to connect with said vertically-oriented plates.

21. (Currently Amended) The ergonomic duty belt system of claim 20 wherein said accessory attachment device further comprises at least one connection section said connection section comprised of a track extending in a generally horizontal longitudinal direction along a portion of said ergonomic duty belt, said track configured to receive a correspondingly configured tenon therein, at least one of said tenons attached to a tool accessory.

22. (Currently Amended) A connection system for allowing interchangeable connection of a variety of accessories to [[a]] an ergonomic duty belt said system comprising:

a plurality of vertically-disposed plates oriented parallel with said ergonomic duty belt transverse axis connected to [[a]] said ergonomic duty belt, said plates defining spaces there between, said plates and said spaces configured to receive and hold a compatibly configured attachment device upon said ergonomic duty belt

a slotted attachment device, said slotted attachment device having a body, said body defining a slot, said slot configured to receive at least a portion of one of said vertically oriented plates therein, whereby an accessory that is connected to a slotted attachment device can be removably attached and removed from said ergonomic duty belt and; said vertically-disposed plates define grooves therein and wherein said each of said slotted attachment devices further comprise a tab, said tab configured to be inserted within at least one of said grooves and to hold said slotted attachment device upon said vertically-oriented plates, and

a screw, said screw configured to engage and hold said slotted attachment device upon said vertically-oriented plate.

23. (Currently Amended) A connection system for allowing interchangeable connection of a variety of accessories to [[a]] an ergonomic duty belt system having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis said system comprising:

a plurality of vertically disposed plates oriented parallel with said ergonomic duty belt transverse axis connected to [[a]] an ergonomic duty belt, said plates defining spaces there between, said plates and said spaces configured to receive and hold a compatibly configured attachment device upon said ergonomic duty belt,

wherein said vertical plates ergonomic duty belt system further comprising sections of a horizontally tracked attachment system parallel with said ergonomic duty belt longitudinal axis positioned between said section having vertical plates; said horizontally longitudinal tracked attachment system comprising a track extending in a generally horizontal longitudinal direction along a portion of said ergonomic duty belt, said track configured to receive a correspondingly configured tenon therein, at least one of said tenons attached to a tool accessory, whereby said horizontally longitudinal tracked attachment system maintains said tool accessories in a desired position and orientation upon said ergonomic duty belt.